



MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKOKE MEDIA

First Mvskoke Film Festival recognizes Creek filmmakers

Native American filmmakers from around the country recognized for their work for the first Mvskoke Film Festival

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — Mvskoke Media held the first Mvskoke Film Festival Sept. 27-29 at the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks. Native American filmmakers from around the country submitted films according to category. The categories were documentary, animation, short subject, feature and college film. Winners were then selected for each category.

The festival began with an awards banquet Sept. 27 to announce the winners. The keynote speaker at this event was Native American actor Chaske Spencer from the “Twilight” movie series. Spencer spoke about the film industry, including the difficulty facing Native Americans aspiring to work in film and his own personal experience in becoming a successful Native American actor.

“You have to fight harder than



MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Pictured above is the cast of Director Bob Hicks’ film, “Two Sisters.” The film was awarded first place for short subject at the Mvskoke Film Festival awards banquet Sept. 27 at Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks.

the guy next to you that’s not Native. I took classes and really threw myself into it. I watched different actors like Pacino and DeNiro,” Spencer said.

At the ceremony, Muscogee (Creek) filmmaker Gary Robinson, a former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communication Department employee, won first in both the documentary and animation categories.

Other winners included:

- Feature film first place “The Unrest” by Mark Williams
- Short subject first place “Two Sisters” by Bob Hicks, with second place awarded to “The Vision” by Maurice Powers III
- Documentary first place “The language of Victory,” with second place awarded to “Fancy Dancer” by Harrison Lowe and third place to “Unheard Voice Stalking in In-

dian Country” by Vanessa Adams Harris

- Animation first place “Native American Night Before Christmas” by Gary Robinson
- College entry “Paranormal Investigators” by Socorro Gonzales

Screenings were held for submissions Sept. 28-29 at Riverwalk Movies owned by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Blake Smith.

Oct. 17 edition of Mvskoke Radio to highlight Council Oak

Media Release
Mvskoke Media

OKMULGEE — Local listeners can tune in Oct. 17 to Mvskoke Radio, broadcast Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL AM 1240 in Okmulgee, Okla. This month’s hour-long program will highlight the upcoming Council Oak ceremony in Tulsa on Oct. 20. Scheduled guests will be Mekko Eunice Hill and members of the Tulsa Parks and Recreation Department. Gary Fife and Gerald Wofford host Mvskoke Radio every Wednesday morning. An archive of the program can be accessed on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Tribe moves toward tribal employment rights law

Daugherty estimates less than 20 percent of MCN contracts awarded to Native-owned businesses

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — An ordinance to mandate that Muscogee and other Native-owned companies get a preference in tribal contracts and employment was approved by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council Sept. 29.

NCA 12-198 is awaiting final approval by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

The tribe has been using what is called a “preferred list” that gives a preference for contractors and businesses, many

of which are not Native American-owned business. During the National Council debate on the floor, Tiger said that’s a situation he wants to change. “This offers an opportunity for our tribal members and other tribes that have business with us, to do business with us. I can assure you, this hasn’t been the case in the past. In the past, it was the so-called preferred list, and I’ve seen that list. I believe I have seen, I assure you, a lot of estahvtkes have got jobs. We want an opportunity for our own to get these jobs.”

The Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) has been a part of many tribal governments’ development efforts, but the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) did not have one in place.

Rob Daugherty is director of the MCN TERO. He explained, “The law in place for other tribes was designed specifically to give its own

tribal citizens who owned businesses a ‘first shot’ at any goods or services that the tribe is pursuing, whether it’s construction or buying, contracting or purchasing something like office equipment, those kinds of things.”

He noted that the law began as a way for tribes in the western part of the country to get more of their citizens employed with projects and industries working on their reservations. TERO laws have made an economic difference for the tribes that have them, “Other tribes who do have TERO programs have prospered real well in terms of providing those companies who are tribally citizen owned a first shot at those goods and services.”

SEE TERO - 3



OCT. 15, 2012
VOL. 42, ISSUE 20
“OTOWOSKY RAKKO”
BIG CHESTNUT
MONTH



Mvskoke Language Program to implement “Train the Trainer”

Media Release
Mvskoke Language Program

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Language Revitalization Program will enact the “Train the Trainer” program Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided and participants are asked to RSVP.

A generation away from losing the language, the MCN language program is asking for help to teach and preserve the Mvskoke Language (opunvkv).

Currently, there is one community resource teacher on staff and the program is unable to reach all communities. Citizens can help by volunteering to teach in their individual communities or by teaching family members. By teaching, these few can help revitalize the dying Mvskoke language.

Fluent speakers of the Mvskoke Language are invited to speak with Mvskoke Language Program staff. Teachers will be available to provide assistance with how to teach the language.

For more information, contact Koko Lowe at 918 732-7724 or Minnie Proctor at 918 732-7725.



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**MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN
JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

Chaske Spencer: “I thought it was a ‘cool’ job”

Native actor and “Twilight” star speaks at first Mvskoke Film Festival

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

JENKS — He originally wanted to become a photographer, but he ended up playing an Indian werewolf in the enormously popular movie “Twilight” series.

Chaske Spencer was in Jenks, Okla., Sept. 27, to deliver the keynote address at the awards banquet for the 2012 Mvskoke Film Festival and answered some questions about his career, his Native American colleagues and the state of the art for Native people and images in the industry.

The inspiration to become a film actor for Chaske Spencer came from watching a lot of movies during his childhood and youth, “I think it was just watching a lot of movies as a kid. It kind of inspired me to check that field out. I originally wanted to be a photographer and that’s what was my passion. Then I moved to New York when I was 21. I didn’t fall into it; I think in the back of



MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Native American actor Chaske Spencer is pictured above while being interviewed by Muscogee Nation News Editorial Assistant Gary Fife. Below, Spencer smiles as his biography is read aloud before he presents at the first Mvskoke Film Festival as guest speaker.

the movie industry, he thinks, requires twice the effort and patience to earn some success, “You have an uphill fight going into Hollywood anyway, whether being in the business as an actor, producer or director. But I think as a Native actor and film-

has been a battle many Native actors have fought and continue to fight. Spencer laughed that it wasn’t the reason he got into acting, “No. I specifically got into acting because it seemed like it was a cool job. I was a very naïve 21-year-old at the time, but it just

tainer, as an actor, I think it just sort of, was thrown onto me. I’ve seen it happen a lot with other actors, with Adam Beach, with Wes Studi and all those guys. They get thrown this thing to represent our people. It’s great, it good. I’d like to try to con-

“I’m pretty fortunate, very lucky to be where I’m at right now. I know that it could all go away tomorrow.”

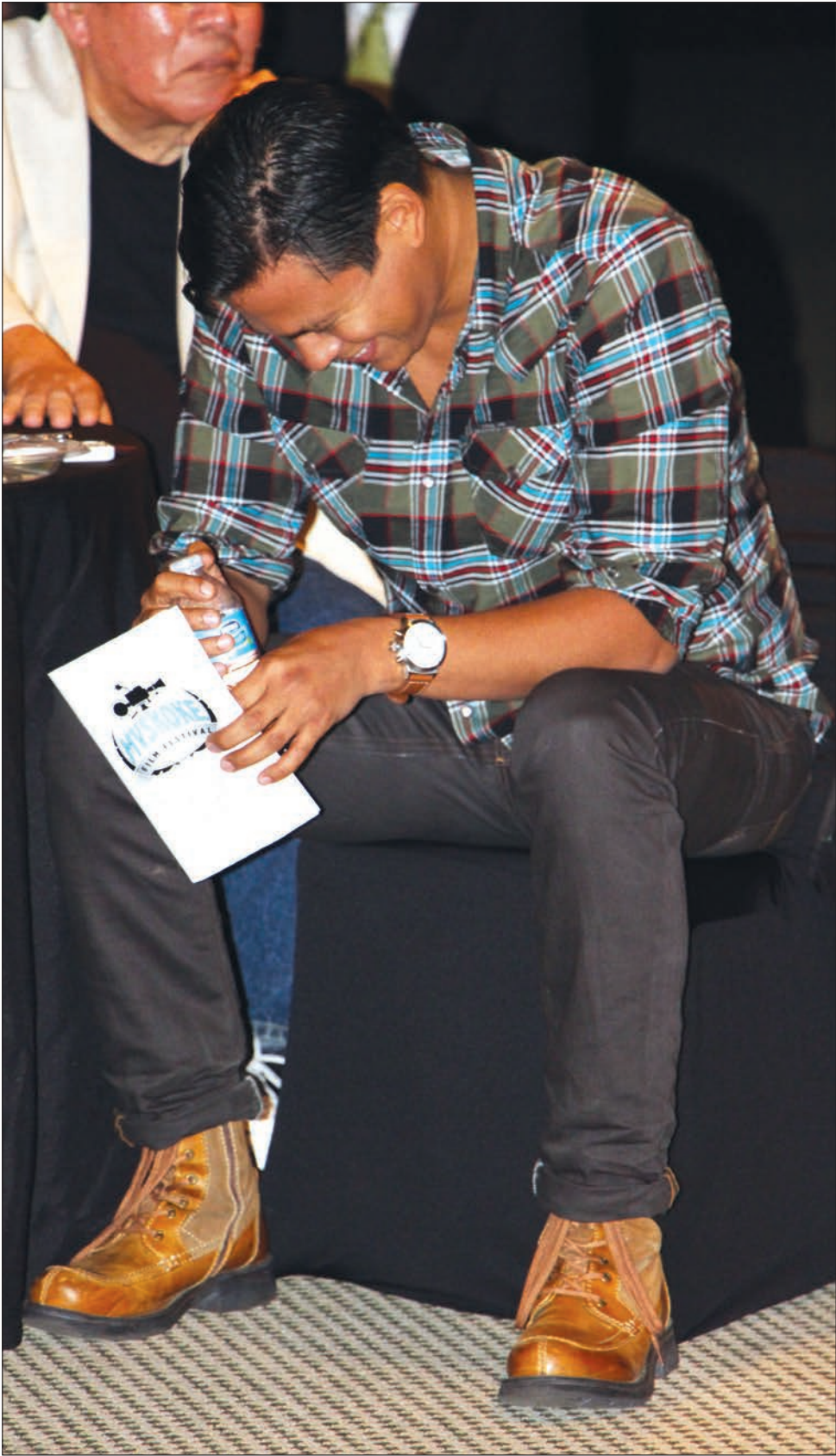
— Chaske Spencer

my head I always knew I was going to try acting. I just wanted to figure out how do you work your craft as an actor. In the beginning, I was horrible. I landed one play and it was just gut retching how bad I was, so I wanted to figure out how do you become better at it. So, I took some classes. If you want to become better, maybe you should check out a class or two, I started studying a lot. I really enjoyed it. So, yeah, I think it’s the thrill of working a scene and learning about a character is what I like.”

Spencer affirms that he wants his career to avoid becoming mired in the stereotypical Native roles, “I’m very selective on what I choose for film. I’ve turned down a lot of stuff if I don’t feel right about it. I’ve got a lot of offers, like ‘leather and feather’ roles. You know, the breechcloth and stuff like that.” He adds, he actually would carefully consider those type of roles if they were quality scripts, “If it was written really well, if it were something that hasn’t been done before, I’d really consider it.”

His role models were the big name Hollywood stars who delivered remarkable performances, and admired the work of a list of Native actors, as well, “The guys I liked were Pacino, DeNiro, I grew up watching Brando movies and Paul Newman. They weren’t Native. It wasn’t ‘til later on down the road that Graham Greene came around and Eric Schweig. There was Adam Beach.”

For a Native person, the challenge of working in



tribute to that. At the end of the day, I’m just an actor. I just want to work. I got into the field for almost very selfish reasons because I like to play. You know, actors don’t grown up. We’re like these kids that just keep learning. Since the success of “Twilight”, and I was lucky to get involved in that, it’s put everything on a whole different level. Some days I get uncomfortable with it, because I don’t represent all Native people.”

The “Twilight” movie series depicts vampires and werewolves and a love story between supernatural creatures and a human girl on a northwest Washington Quileute reservation. That story hasn’t any real basis in native tribal folklore. Spencer said people should remember that it’s only a fictional story strictly meant for entertainment value, “It’s made up. It might have been based on a legend somewhere along the way, but it’s like ‘Lord of the Rings,’ or ‘Harry Potter.’

Spencer is enjoying his success now. More film projects are on his agenda and he said, he’s able to pay the rent, keep a car and food in his refrigerator. That’s a far cry from his early days and the scramble to meet daily needs. “Life’s good. If I take it one day at a time, don’t take it too seriously, it’s really good. I’m pretty fortunate, very lucky to be where I’m at right now. I know that it could all go away tomorrow. I might be on a good run this year, maybe next year won’t be that good.”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Citizenship cards can’t be used at tribally-owned casinos?

TULSA — I, Toske Willits, have used my Creek Nation enrollment card to fly to Los Angeles, Calif., and back. I have used my MCN photo enrollment card to fly to Washington state and back. I’ve used my MCN photo ID in the Indian casino in Washington State. I have used my MCN photo to fly to Las Vegas and back. I have used my MCN photo ID to vote for who I wanted for president and on Sept. 19, I used my MCN photo ID to a player’s card at the Sandia Casino.

Three flights, one voting but I cannot use my MCN photo ID to eat at the buffet at the River Spirit Casino. What is wrong with this picture?

Results of Sept. 28 National Council regular session

Sterling Cospers
MNN Reporter

Media Release
MCN Community and Human Services

OKMULGEE — The following is a report of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council regular session held Sept. 28 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building.

- TR 12-123 authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement allowing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) to participate in the Cherokee Nation Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-124 authorizing the principal chief to execute the My-Health Access Network participation agreement to allow the MCN Division of Health to participate in a patient information sharing network. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-125 authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Indian Health Services (IHS) for employment of Tabatha V. Welker as commissioned personnel for the Koweta Clinic. Rep. Pearl Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-126 supporting the Yanomami Tribe of Venezuela and speaking out against the recent massacre and oppression of indigenous people. Reps. Kara Medina and Eddie LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-127 authorizing the principal chief to execute a business associate agreement with scrimmage allowing the business associate to receive, use, obtain or access protected health information in the course of providing services. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-128 authorizing the principal chief to execute a license agreement with Tyco Healthcare Group Lp under their royalty free option to allow the MCN Division of Health to use three Sequential Compression System Controllers. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-129 authorizing the principal chief to execute a data use and electronic funds transfer authorization agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for participation in the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-130 approving the sale of beer at the Muskogee and Okmulgee Travel Plazas. Reps. David Nichols and Adam Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-2 with Reps. Darrell Proctor and Keeper Johnson voting against it.
- TR 12-131 authorizing the principal chief to execute a closed captioning waiver between the MCN and Griffin Communications for programming provided to KOTV/KQCW. Reps. Jones and Sam Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-132 confirming the nomination of Bill Fife to serve as the Secretary of the Nation of the MCN. Reps. Jones, Franklin Coachman, Shirlene Ade, Lena Wind, Pearl Thomas and Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-2 with Reps. David Nichols and Dode Barnett voting against it.
- TR 12-133 authorizing Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to manage the MCN's travel plazas and repealing TR 02-081, which authorized the MCN Trade and Commerce Authority to manage the MCN's travel plazas. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-134 authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Hughes County for improvements to the EW1390 Road Project. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-136 approving the concept of working with other tribes to pursue Internet gaming opportunities. Ade and Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-137 authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and IHS for satisfactory domestic water supply, adequate wastewater disposal and plumbing facilities for 82 existing Indian homes in Okmulgee. Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-138 authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board (GOAB) to execute an agreement with I-5 Design and Manufacture Inc. for the renovation of the MCN casino in Duck Creek. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-139 authorizing the GOAB to execute an agreement with Red Stone Construction Services for the renovation of the MCN Casino in Duck Creek. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-140 establishing tribal membership in the Nation Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-141 authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with the United States of American acting through IHS. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-142 authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with IHS, Okmulgee County Rural Water District #4 and Muskogee County Rural Water District #5. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-145 authorizing the principal chief to execute a quote with Richard Wolf Medical Instruments Corporation for an endoscopic surgery camera and equipment for use at the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-146 authorizing the principal chief to execute a utility easement across tribal land for the construction, use and maintenance of a sewer line for an individual landowner in McIntosh County. Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 12-147 approving the Muscogee International LLC amended formation documents. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 9-5 with Reps. Johnson, Nichols, Yahola, Barnett and Mark Randolph voting against it. Wind was out of the room.
- NCA 12-162 appropriating \$855,250 to construct a new community building for the Dewar Indian Community. Reps. Nichols and Pete Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-174 repealing Chapter 1 of Title 16 entitled Organization of Executive Office of the Principal Chief and replacing it with a new Chapter 1 entitled The Organization for the Executive Office of the Principal Chief. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-185 authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$444,395 to the MCN Transit Program to purchase a chartered coach bus. Reps. Beaver and David Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Nichols voting against it.
- NCA 12-186 authorizing a donation of \$2,000 to Paden Public Schools. Hill, Coachman and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Johnson voting against it.
- NCA 12-187 amending NCA 12-039 a law of the MCN authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the citizenship board to purchase a database system. Greene and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-188 authorizing an appropriation of \$15,000 to fund the costs associated with hosting the quarterly meeting of the Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-189 authorizing the expenditure of community grant funds awarded from the NCAI to the MCN for the Division of Community Services. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-190 amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 17, Section 5-105 entitled Distribution of Profits, part of the economic development code pertaining to the MCN travel plazas. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-191 authorizing a special appropriation of \$250 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-192 authorizing a special appropriation to the Fishpond and Green Leaf Ceremonial Grounds. LaGrone, Nichols, Yahola, Wind, Johnson and Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-193 authorizing a special appropriation of \$745 to a Muscogee (Creek) student to attend the National Young Leaders State Conference for the Mid-America Region. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-196 repealing NCA 83-31 an ordinance of the MCN supporting, with conditions, the petition for the recognition of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Atmore, Alabama as an Indian tribe. All members of the council sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0, except Rep. Kara Medina who was excused from the session.
- NCA 12-197 authorizing a donation of \$1,500 for the second annual Okmulgee County Community Baby Shower. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-198 creating a new chapter under MCNCA Title 16 entitled Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office Act. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 12-200 authorizing a special appropriation of \$463,129 to the Okemah Indian Community. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-6 with Yahola, Barnett, Beaver, Greene, Johnson and Nichols voting against it.
- NCA 12-201 was postponed for 30 days. LaGrone was excused.

MCN Community and Human Services announces changes

Media Release
MCN Community and Human Services

OKMULGEE — The operation of several Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) tribal programs has been placed under different departments and/or have changed locations.

The Elderly Nutrition (ENP) and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Programs have transferred from the Division of Health to the Division of Community and Human Services. The ENP office is now located in the McCombs Building next to the Tourism and Recreation offices. The WIC offices have not moved. For more information regarding these programs please contact ENP Manager Lou Fixico at 918-752-9385 or Acting WIC Manager Katura Bunner at 918-758-2722.

Adult Protective Services has now transferred under Senior Services and their offices are also located in the McCombs Building. For more information contact Senior Services Manager David Dunson at 918-732-7699.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) has moved to their new offices located at 600 Mission in Okmulgee. For more information contact TANF Manager Neenah Tiger at 918-732-7985.

The Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) is a reorganized Muscogee (Creek) Nation program providing advocacy and supportive services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

The program also serves as a community education and awareness in an effort to increase safety, achieve justice, and promote healing for individuals, families and our tribal communities.

The Nation is currently operating these services through three Federal grants and their offices are located in the Community Services building. For more information regarding these programs please contact Program Coordinators Shawn Partridge or Tania Bardin at 918-732-7869.

We appreciate your patience as we work through these changes to enhance the quality of service to our citizens and clients.

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TERO
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The TERO law doesn't grant automatic approval of Native bids for contracts, but if their bids are competitive, then the Native-owned business would be awarded the contract, Daugherty said. A process is being developed to insure that the contract winner is actually a 51 percent Native-owned business and not just a 'minority front.' That occurs when a person with Native ancestry has been placed as a "figurehead" business owner in order to meet TERO requirements.

TERO laws around the nation have come under criticism by non-Native business owners who complain that it gives Natives an unfair edge in the contract competition. That's something Daugherty is aware of, but responds that where tribal money goes should be controlled by tribes, "We as Native people always like to think that we should be able to determine who we contract out for such things. It is sometimes a sensitive subject to a lot of non-Indian businesses that have previously done business with tribes. All of a sudden, an ordinance becomes established where only Native peoples will be selected. That's not necessarily true, 100 percent, because even our Indian owned companies will sometimes submit a bid that is very inflated. My job is to protect Indian-owned and Creek-owned businesses, but at the same time, I have another hat that I wear and that's to protect the financial interest of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

He added, "It's Muscogee (Creek) money, therefore, our Muscogee (Creek) citizens should have preference."

Daugherty said the Cherokee Nation is an example of the results TERO laws can provide to a tribe, "With the casinos, about 13 percent of the business was going to Indian-owned businesses, prior to TERO. After the fact, when TERO really kicked in, they went from 13 percent to about 63 percent. The business that was conducted was going to Indian-owned companies and that's a 'win-win' situation."

Daugherty currently estimates, for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the rate of business going to Native-owned companies would be below 20 percent.



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Montana State University Extension Tribal Meth Education Training & Help Center

Learning our language, regaining culture: Weeks 3 - 4

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

WEEK 3: OKMULGEE — It’s back to reviewing the alphabet and I’m happy to say I am able to remember about 19 of the 20 letters. For some silly reason, I keep forgetting to include the 17th one, the ‘v—uh’ that comes right after the ‘u—oee’ and before the ‘w—we’. By checking with our handout list of the alphabet, I’m going to drill it into my head. Like the English alphabet ‘u-v-w but no ‘x’ or ‘z.’

I find I am beginning to make out some words and their pronunciation by sounding out the letters although I have got a long way to go. That takes some time for me. For instance, there are the Creek words for ‘Men’ and ‘Women’ on the restrooms at the Mound Building, but, I give thanks for the symbols on the doors or I could have REALLY been in trouble there. 2,000 mv-tos.

I find that this week’s notes are not much help. I wasn’t keeping up with the instruction, while trying to mentally get words correct, so my notetaking suffered. I kind of scribbled many of them quickly, so they’re not exactly legible and not necessarily attached to a single thought. I’ll get them, though some of what I wrote down kind of looks like Cherokee.

Our teacher, Daria Hicks, spoke many words that I wish I remembered. I write down what I can to reference later. One thing she emphasized was to learn the letters, recognize them and know the sound. Writing them phonetically could present a problem because you aren’t learning and reading them by sight as you should. This kind of crutch is not something I want to depend on but I admit it helps occasionally. I try and go back to write it correctly later.

Hicks has begun to teach us two-letter sounds and how this kind of combination can make up words by themselves, like ‘fo’ is bee, ‘mo-mis’ is “It is so.” Again, I hope I got that right (or it is not so).

I have the list from the website language program and I’m repeating as many of the phrases as I can, hoping they can more naturally come to mind when I talk to other Creeks. Again, that’s not going to come easily.

I greeted Chief George Tiger at a recent federal meeting and forgot to use the Creek phrases that are appropriate and I have been working on. Dang it. That’s one of those situations where you mentally kick yourself in the tail for missing what would have been a great opportunity.

I’m going to buy the language CDs available from the language program and play them when I drive back and forth to work, to keep the sounds and words in my head. 25 minutes each way on highway 75 will be put to better use, I hope.

Hvtvm cehecares—I will see you again.

WEEK 4: OKMULGEE — Our class is making it easier for each other to participate in the weekly sessions. More of us are comfortable now. We’re speaking up with questions, pronouncing the alphabet in unison, and individually responding to test questions posed by our instructor, Daria Hicks.

This really makes a difference. We’re all there to learn the language and need these basic lessons. I sense there are some students with more ability in the language, but they are not being judgmental about other students who have much more to learn. There are management level professionals, support staff and some from other positions. It is

a real mixed bag of people in attendance. That feels good, and I think the other students are also more comfortable and willing to work together (and root for each other).

Learning two letter combinations is where we’re concentrating now. We’re putting them into combinations to form words. Next come phrases. The answer to the questions such as, ‘What month were you born in?’ can be a real mouthful. I took some German in high school, so I had some idea of what compound words were like, so it felt somewhat familiar.

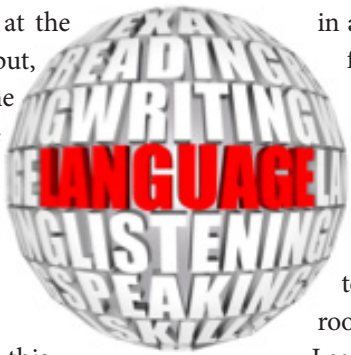
I was born on the 21st day of the Little Chestnut month, so it comes out something like: Oto wus kuce palen hokkelen hvm-ken. I hope I got the sequence right. I must admit there was some fumbling over pronunciation while I practiced. When my turn came to tell Hicks and the class the day and month of my birth, I got it right, I think. At least no one giggled. Like everything else, the ‘year’ is going to take some work. We got a preview of how the year 2012 is composed and how it gets pronounced. That takes about seven phrases. Yippee.

I felt kind of honored that Hicks mentioned I needed to correct the spelling of the name of the column I write for the Muscogee Nation News, “Emvponayv” to “Emoponayv.”

It felt nice to hear that someone actually reads it. So, that correction didn’t sting because she said that the spelling was wrong, but the content was OK.

I bought the language CDs. They are useful in the drive to-and-from work. They only pronounce the word once, so you have to really pay attention. They include phrases and numbers in the first ones. The more advanced CDs teach more conversational phrases from church, stompdance, family, hospital, school, foods and family gatherings. You can learn to get fed, respect your elders and a lot of other common uses. I doubt that I will ever learn enough to know what the elders are saying or engage in deep discussions, but I feel like I could get by with the basics.

It will take practice. I’ve tried to use the phrases I know, but I still keep mixing them up. So, I return to my study materials.



Past champ wins National Indian Taco honor



MNN/Gary Fife

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Della Proctor competed in the 2012 National Indian Taco Championship in Pawhuska Oct. 6.

“Good bread. Good meat and plenty of it. No skimpies.” — Terri Begay

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

PAWHUSKA — The most important ingredient in a championship Indian taco is the frybread.

Practically every contestant interviewed repeated the same thing: it’s the bread that makes the best Indian taco. That was the word on a very cool Pawhuska morning, Oct. 6, where 16 contestants battled it out to see who cooked up the best in the National Indian Taco Championship.

Downtown Pawhuska was filled with the smells of frying bread, bubbling chili and chopped onions as the entrants prepared their best to offer to the judging panel.

Deedee Lookout, won the taco championship three times in the past and described the perfect piece of frybread, “One that’s not greasy; it’s fluffy and one that you’re going to get full on when you eat your taco.”

Paula Mashunkashey, from Pawhuska, said she enters the competition for the love of it, “We love it. It’s just a family thing that we do.

It’s fun.”

Her opinion of the championship taco, “I think it’s all in the frybread. It’s not in the meat; it’s not in the toppings. I think it’s all in the bread, because I’ve talked to judges before, that have judged in the past and they said, if you get ahold of a greasy piece of frybread, that’s a no-no. I think it’s all in the bread, and I make the best.”

Terri Begay entered because her daughter thought it would be fun. She agreed that the basis for a winning Indian taco is the frybread and generous portions, “Good bread. Good meat and plenty of it. No skimpies.” She likes her bread, “crispy on the outside, kind of bread-like on the inside, but not too thick.”

Della Proctor, a Muscogee (Creek) woman, was trying her hand, “Trying to fight my way in with the Osages on their frybread.”

Friends and family had encouraged her, praising her frybread, so she was there to prove it. Her thoughts on a winning taco: “I think frybread – the kneading of it, the consistency and ‘puffiness’ of it—that makes good frybread to me and kind of crispy, too.”

She changed her meat recipe for the contest, “The taco meat that I use, I did a different variation of it. I added my beans to my meat this year, instead of separate, because that’s how they like it here.”

Paula Stabler is publicity manager for the National Indian Taco Championship. She remembers a small start for the contest and it growing steadily. It seemed like an ideal spotlight for Pawhuska, “It started out for just a fun local event, ‘Let’s get together and have some competition over some frybread and some tacos.’ Then we saw that it was an iconic idea that nobody had going anyway else. So, we started spreading the word around, and starting getting a lot of interest in it. So, we got down to, ‘what’s the purpose of this,’ It’s really to let people know about our town and the things to do here.”

She ventured a thought on what makes a winner, “I think it’s the creativity of the toppings, but you can’t forget, it’s got to be a good piece of bread. It’s got to be an excellent piece of bread. You’ve got to be able to cut it with a fork, great texture and that great flavor to go with it. It’s got to be able to support your toppings.”

At the end of the day, it was Deedee Lookout who won first prize as the 2012 National Indian Taco Champion. Her entry took home the first Place prize of \$300. Beatrice Realrider won second place and \$200, with Deda Oliver-Lookout taking third place and \$100.

MOVIE NIGHT!

ATTENTION: MUSCOGEE (CREEK) VETERANS ALL BRANCHES

In Honor of Muscogee Veterans the VASO will be hosting

**“MOVIE NIGHT”
(Friday, 19 October 2012)**

- Showtime - 1900 Hrs.
- Location - Veterans Building (MCN Complex)
- Movie - **“THE LOST BATTALION”** (with Rick Schroder)
- Drinks - Coke & Diet Coke (Free Of Charge) • Chow - Popcorn (Free Of Charge)
- Smoking Lamp is Lit • Price of Admission - FREE (Adults only)
- Muscogee Veterans plus one adult guest

Any questions call Shawn Taryole at the MCN VASO (918) 732-7745

Grounds wins Oktoberfest poster contest second consecutive year

Muscogee (Creek) artist Steven Grounds wins Tulsa Oktoberfest poster contest for the second straight year

Sterling Cospers
MNN Reporter

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) artist Steven Grounds was recently chosen as the Tulsa Oktoberfest poster contest winner for the second year in a row. The winning artwork in this annual contest is used on a variety of promotional items for the event.

“I felt like it was a good experience going through the process of working on the poster again this year,” Grounds said.

Both of Grounds’ winning pieces are portraits and were created with similar mediums.

“It ended up evolving into kind of a series concept between last year’s and this year’s poster. You can see sort of a progression,” he said.

Grounds strived for progress and improvement in this year’s portrait.

“This year I really wanted to do more with it than last year. I wanted to riff off of what I did last year and improve on it and spend more time,” he said.

Winning two years in a row also gave Grounds the advantage of having an existing rapport with



Photo provided/Steven Grounds

Muscogee (Creek) artist Steven Grounds signs a copy of his artwork, which was chosen for the second consecutive year as the winner of the Tulsa Oktoberfest poster contest.

the Oktoberfest board and executive committee, which helped him to further develop his concept once his initial draft was chosen as a winner.

“There are certain cultural elements based on the Bavarian culture they were looking for, that I had to do research on. They were able to act as consultants, and we made sure that everything was accurately represented,” he said.

Success in this contest may have required Grounds to research a foreign culture, but his Creek heritage is something he closely identifies with.

“It’s from my dad’s side, he actually works at the Nation. He’s been able to tap into some resources and help me with getting involved

in the Creek Festival,” he said.

Grounds has had a booth at the festival for a few years displaying his artwork. He credits this with helping him gain early exposure.

“It helped get the word out to show people what I do like print shirts,” he said.

A suggestion from a friend convinced Grounds to participate in the Oktoberfest poster contest the first year, helping him further his exposure as an artist.

“Someone tapped me on the shoulder and said that I should try it because they were a fan of Oktoberfest. It ended up being a lot more work than I thought, but it was worth it because of the media coverage and the exposure that I don’t regularly get,” he said.

He currently works a day job in Tulsa, but Grounds dedicates a good portion of his personal time to his artistic training, most of which has come from personal study.

“I go home and experiment with different mediums and pretty much try to teach myself. I have a little bit of a background in taking art classes in college but I was really never able to declare it my major because we never had any four-year degree art programs,” he said.

Grounds addressed the question of whether or not he would enter the contest next year.

“It came up at the unveiling but I didn’t answer,” he said.

Mvskoke Media’s movie review: “Looper” receives four frybreads

Mvskoke Media’s monthly movie review on director Rian Johnson’s “Looper”

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

JENKS — The movie “Looper” is a science fiction thriller set in the future with a bit of a cerebral beginning and ending that contains great action sequences. One can’t help but think of past science fiction thrillers and one movie in particular that comes to mind is “The Terminator” from the 1980s.

The premise of “Looper” is for a futuristic gangster named Joe Simmons (his name even sounds like the traditional movie gangster) played by the young Joseph Gordon-Levitt. Some may remember Gordon-Levitt who played the son in the television series “3rd Rock From the Sun” from a few years ago as well as his role in movies such as “G.I. Joe” and “Brick.”

The year is 2042 and the ability to time travel has been invented, however, it has been deemed illegal by authorities. That doesn’t stop underground mob armies and the like from using it for their own personal gain. The criminals go back in time and ‘eliminate’ people that aren’t with the program. This helps the mob and their plans.

The way the mob helps eliminate people is to send an assassin or looper to do the job. Gordon-Levitt is hired as a looper, proves to be quite successful, and garners a serious reputation. Eventually, all things must come to an end and the loopers find that their demise is also part of the mob’s plan after their duties are no longer needed.

The remedy for this is to send Joe Simmons future self, played by veteran action star Bruce Willis, back in time to carry out the task. Deed is done, problem solved. . . unless the looper doesn’t want to carry out his own execution. Then a small army is sent to make sure the job is carried out. Of course, action follows. It is this basis that makes “Looper” fast paced

but keeps the audience thinking throughout the story. Plus the cast plays great parts too, with the love interest played by Emily Blunt, who gets to know both the younger and older Joe.

If you like science fiction action along with a well-paced plot, you will enjoy this movie. So out of a possible five fry-breads, we’re giving Looper a four.



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MvskokeMedia

Native Made Art Festival set for Oct. 27 in Jenks

Media Release
MCN Tourism & Recreation

JENKS — The inaugural Native Made Art Festival will be held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Riverwalk in Jenks, Okla., from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Oct. 27.

Booth spaces are limited and free of charge and will be granted on a first come, first served basis.

This is an outdoor event. All spaces are outside, provided a 10’x10’ canopy and are limited to one per participant. Artists should prepare for wind or other inclement weather occurrences.

Artists should include four photos of recent artwork and a complete biography including information about the artwork and where it has been exhibited.

In order to be considered for a booth space, artists must donate a piece of their artwork to be used at the silent auction at the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Induction Gala (fund raiser for the Creek Nation Foundation, Inc. and the MCN Annual Festival), Oct. 11, 2012.

All donations must be delivered to the MCN Tourism & Recreation Office.

All artwork must be original work of registered artist. No manufactured, imitation craft items or objects made from commercial kits, patterns or molds will be accepted. Items made from endangered species may not be exhibited.

Any unacceptable merchandise be removed. All artwork must be properly represented to the buyer. Any artist who misrepresents himself or his artwork and/or who does not abide by the rules and regulations set forth will be asked to leave the festival.

Artists will be notified as complete applications and required materials are accepted.

If an application is received after the deadline or, if for various reasons an artist is not accepted, said artist will be notified.

Artist registration will be form 8–9 a.m., Oct. 27. All artists must register and must have proper paperwork on file with the MCN Tourism & Recreation Department to participate.

For more information, contact MCN Tourism & Recreation at 918-732-7993.



NATIVE MADE
ART FESTIVAL

MCN Division of Health IT Department presents at annual conference



Photo provided/MCN Division of Health
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health presented findings on the implementation of electronic health record in Indian Country at the annual Consumer Conference in Denver, Colo., Sept. 27. Pictured left to right are Kris Krueger, Becky Whitlow, Brandy Cunningham and Robert Coffey.

Media Release MCN Division of Health

DENVER — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health Information Technology staff gave a presentation at the National Indian Health Board's 29th Annual Consumer Conference in Denver Sept. 27.

The presentation, "Implementing an Electronic Health Record in Indian Country: The Good, Bad and Ugly" focused on the transition from the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) to NextGen and how it has benefited the health system.

"As we strive to be a leader in Indian health, we have faced many challenges as well as rewards," said Robert Coffey, Chief Information Officer. "Being the first tribe in Oklahoma to move away from RPMS has provided many opportunities to learn new lessons."

Other Division of Health presenters Brandy Cunningham, Kris Krueger and Becky

Whitlow reiterated the same thoughts by acknowledging the honor to share their knowledge and experience to a national level of healthcare officials.

RPMS is the original software used by the Indian Health Service to provide patient care. The software created a database for each separate clinic. Providers were not able to look at a patient's record from one facility without logging in and logging out to review that patient's record. NextGen is the cutting edge leader in healthcare technology that the MCN Division of Health implemented to provide state of the art health care to patients. It allows the system to have one patient record for patients to provide improved consistent care. It also allows the staff to log in one time to see the patient's history of care at any of the six facilities, making patient care more efficient.

Lightnin' Mike Cooper opens Gym of Champions



MNN/Gerald Wofford
Jacob Cooper trains on the speed bag, one of the many amenities at Lightning's Gym of Champions. Below is Muscogee (Creek) citizen Mike Cooper trains Marissa Brooks at Lightning's Gym of Champions in Tulsa.

Lightnin' Mike Cooper wants to get Indians in shape

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — A Muscogee (Creek) warrior is making sure fellow tribal members live a healthier lifestyle. Mike Cooper, aka 'Lightning Mike' has opened a gym in Tulsa that allows people get in shape and release a little 'steam' if needed.

"I structure my training sessions toward boxing and MMA," said Cooper.

"I have other ways that people can exercise, but this is a unique way that everyone can enjoy a special workout."

Lightning's Gym of Champions of-

ficially opened in June 2012.

Cooper's captured an amateur state golden gloves championship and after turning professional, he garnered a record of seven wins, one loss and one draw. Cooper is certified in the fields of personal training and sports nutrition and served as a personal trainer to companies such as Bama Pie Company. When he's not training clients, Cooper also trains local fighters.

Cooper's gym features the standard gym equipment, in addition to speed bags, punching bags, weights and an atmosphere that is second to none for those who are ready to sweat.

When the gym opened, the two newest members, Marissa Brooks and Belinda Hernandez immediately signed up. Hernandez knew Cooper when he was a trainer at the Bama Corporation. Since they

joined, Brooks has lost 60 pounds while Hernandez has shed 50. "This is such a nice atmosphere to do your work outs," says Hernandez, "Mike is a great teacher and his workout routines change everyday so you don't get bored."

The Muscogee (Creek) warrior says that he enjoys helping people to succeed in their fitness goals, "I like meeting new people, especially when it comes to their new fitness goals."

"There's no reason why Indian people should not be taking better care of themselves and that's what I'm doing here."

Lightnin' Mike Cooper's gym is located at 3312 East 39th Street and Harvard in Tulsa. For more information, contact Cooper at 918-289-6167 or by email at: lightningm21@gmail.com.

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For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

OBITUARIES

HANK INGRAM

WELEETKA — Lawrence Hank (Spanky) Ingram was born Nov. 24, 1951 in Holdenville to James Lee Ingram and Nora Burgess Ingram and passed from this life Sept. 24, 2012 in Okemah at the age of 60.

Ingram was raised in Weleetka and Holdenville and attended the Weleetka School. As a young man he was married to Margie Scott and to this union two children were born, Johnny Lee and O-Han-Sica Tresa.

Margie; his parents; a brother, John; a son, Montie Scott; a grandson, Jason Anderson and a great grandson, Nate Littledeer, preceded him in death.

He spent much of his life in the McCloud area with his family. He worked as a laborer at various construction sites. He was also an ordained minister and served the church as an evangelist under the training of Rev. Redmond Wolfe of the Little River Church in Seminole. He traveled across the country holding revival meetings.

Hank was very artistic and loved to draw, sing, and dance. He sometimes made up his own songs, especially humorous ones. He was a funny guy and loved to play pranks on his family and friends. He was very proud of his Creek heritage and spoke the language fluently, which he shared with his family often. He was very outgoing and seemed to never meet a stranger. He had been living at the Okemah Care Center where he loved all the residents and they loved him as well. They were just like his family.

Survivors include: his sister Kathi (Ingram) Butler and husband Bill of Tulsa; his children, Gada (Moppin) McGirt of Norman, Johnny Lee Ingram of Helena, and O-Han-Sica Tresa Ingram of Taft; his grandchildren, Kashina (McGirt) Littledeer, Keona McGirt, Kierra McGirt, Phoenix McGirt, DeAngelo Brinson, DeKovin Brinson, Alisia Brinson, and Gracie Potts, all of Norman, and Dominique Bear of Shawnee; along with several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held at the Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home Chapel in Wetumka with Rev. Danny Faulkner officiating. Interment took place at the Fairlawn Cemetery in Weleetka under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home of Weleetka and Wetumka.

REV. RAYMOND JOHNSON

DALLAS, Texas — Rev. Raymond Troy Johnson was reunited with our Savior The Lord Jesus Christ Sept. 28, 2012.

He was born Lamar, Okla., June 11, 1927 to Wesley and Anna Johnson.

As minister of the Assemblies of God, he served as the pastor of The Dallas Indian Revival Center, the Associate Pastor of Glad Tidings Assembly of God and as pastor of Chihowa Chuka, in Wright City, Okla. He also held special worship services in nursing homes for decades.

As a loyal servant of the Lord, he ministered and counseled many. He introduced numerous people to the word of God and the path to everlasting life

and was always there for anyone in times of need regardless of the time of day or circumstance. His faith, spirituality, and personality were an inspiration and an example to all he came into contact with.

He retired from the Veterans’ Administration Medical Center after 38 years of service. He also owned and operated Complete Artificial Eye Service for over 40 years.

As a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, he lobbied in Washington D.C., for assistance to ensure quality healthcare and social services to address the specific needs of the Native American population in the metroplex. He served as Chairman of the Board of Directors and was a Co-founder of the Dallas Inter-Tribal Center Oak Cliff in Dallas, Texas.

He attended school in Lamar and Holdenville.


A Navy Veteran of World War II and Korea, he received the WWII Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Navy Occupation Medal, United Nations Medal and Korean Service Medals.

He is survived by his loving wife, Jean, who cared for his every need in their home during his last months, his adoring daughter, Diane Coleman Robertson, and her husband Tom W. Robertson III, grandson Chad Fowler and his wife, Darla, granddaughter Christi Boyer and her husband, Brad, three great granddaughters Lauren Dobbs, Carli Nix, Madison Boyer and one great-great grandson, Logan Dobbs, brothers Charles, John, Nelson and sisters Estelle Thompson and Helen Hair.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Jaunelle Johnson.

He will be missed by all that had the privilege to know him.

THOMAS LASARGE



SAPULPA — Thomas LaSarge, a resident of Sapulpa, passed away Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012 at the age of 55.

He was born May 11, 1957 to Burban Jerome and Lucy (McIntosh) LaSarge in Claremore, Okla.

He graduated from Sequoyah High School in 1976 and attended school in Maine as an exchange student. Thomas was a well-known artist and loved to paint. He enjoyed playing pool. He played softball, football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, boxing, golf and wrestling. He was a member of the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Burban Jerome and Lucy LaSarge; brother, Daniel LaSarge; sister, Cindy Sutton; sister-in-law, Norma LaSarge and sister-in-law, Patricia LaSarge.

Survivors include wife, Susan LaSarge of the home; children, Amos LaSarge of the home, Jackie

LaSarge of the home, Clarence LaSarge of Philadelphia, Trinidad Littlebear of the home, Frank Watashe of the home, Twainna Proctor and husband, Bryon of Dewar and Tomasina LaSarge and husband, Curtis Cargill of Bristow; sisters, Brenda LaSarge of Okmulgee and Rebecca Pogue of Bartlesville; brothers, Butch LaSarge and wife, Barbara of Okmulgee, Charley LaSarge and wife, Della of Okmulgee; Ronnie LaSarge of Durant and Allen LaSarge of Durant; grandchildren, Allison, Kristen, Bryanna and Jayden Proctor, Nicholas and Gavin Cargill; numerous other nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives.

Wake Services were held 7p.m., Sept. 25 at the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services were held at 1 p.m., Sept. 26 at the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church with Revs. Alfred Berryhill and Sammy Chupco officiating. Burial followed the service at the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Cemetery under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers were Micheal Jimboy, Isaiah Jimboy, Daniel Littlebear, Curtis Cargill, Byron Proctor, Chuck LaSarge, Anthony LaSarge, Josiah LaSarge and Jeremiah LaSarge.

Honorary pallbearers were Butch LaSarge, Charley LaSarge, Ronnie LaSarge, Allen LaSarge, Robert Brown, Sam Johnson and Raymond Bevenue.

SUZANNA MOSES



SEMINOLE — Suzanna Kay Moses, 54, of Seminole, passed away Sept. 7, 2012 in Seminole, Okla.

Born May 8, 1958 in Talihina, Okla., to the late Sam and Josephine (McGirt) Moses.

Suzanna was raised near Limestone with her parents, and siblings (now deceased). Growing up, she attended schools at Limestone and New Lima. She enjoyed going to church and for many years she was raised on the grounds of Hilltop Indian Presbyterian Church.

Later in years she was ordained as an elder and took that role seriously. She worked as a CHR with Seminole Nation and was member of the Tallahassee Band where she served as Council Representative. She also served her country 13 years with the U.S. National Guard.

Suzanna had great love and concern for her grandson, Taylor. Her last words expressed her hope that he would finish school and be cared for throughout his school days.

Preceding Suzanna in death were her parents; brothers, Harland and Harold Moses and sisters, Rosetta and Sandra Moses.

Survivors include daughter Rosanna Moses and husband Charles Yargee; grandson Taylor Moses; a special friend, Janet Hill;

three nieces; one nephew and a host of other relatives and friends.

Wake services were held Sept. 9 at Stout-Phillips Funeral Home with Revs. Houston Tiger and Edward Jimboy officiating.

Pallbearers were Tony Yargee, Paul Stewart, Taylor Moses, Emmanuel Moses, Rexton Hailey.

Funeral services were held Sept. 10 at Stout-Phillips Funeral Home. Burial followed at Moses Family Cemetery.

THANK YOU

OKMULGEE — On behalf of Sissy Street Family and Grave Creek Church, we would like to thank the people who helped cook and serve dinner during our time of need: Mona “KoKo” Lowe, Rosanna Bear and the members of the First Baptist Church in Hitchita, Okla.

Thank you for all your prayers and those we may not know but were there to support the family and church. Mvto.

THANK YOU

BRISTOW — The Family of James Fletcher Waggoner would like to express our gratitude for all the love and support that was extended to us during our time of need. We are so grateful for the time that we had with James. He will be forever in our hearts.

We would like to extend a special thank you to:

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and to Second Chief Roger Barnett, Rev. Don Tiger, Pastor Marcus Briggs-Cloud, Hutchins-Maples Funeral Home, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Roads Department, MCN Social Services, the community center in Bristow, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gift Shop for the beautiful beaded bow tie and flute music, and to all the relatives and friends for their prayers and condolences.

Thank you to the cooks at the

community center and those who offered food as well as their time, flowers, and gifts. The family is thankful for the many prayers and condolences.

- Jennie Katoos Waggoner

THANK YOU

WEWOKA — We, the family of the late Robert Tom Wood, cannot say thank you enough to all those who came and gave us encouragement during the time of my husband’s illness.

We would like to thank every one for the help with the food, flowers, cards, during the time of our lost and during the time of his illness. We would like to recognize those who helped us through it all:

Rev. Jimsey Harjo & members of Rock Spring, Rev. George Harjochee & Family, Rev. Houston Tiger & members of Sand Creek Eufuala, Rev. Willie Guient & members of middle Creek Baptist, Gerald Prater, Winn Harjo, Charles Burgess & Mary Hulbutta, Sherman & Winey West, Walter & Joann Coker, Leo & Diane Moppin, Milred Martin & Wanda Bruner, Carol Harrison, Vicki Wilson, Shirley Harrison, Martha Carpitcher Walker, Jason Tiger, Bennie Tiger, Marvin Osborne, Josh Punkta, Dean Welch, Holdenville Health Care, Faith Hospice nurses, Creek Nation Road Crew, Seminole Nation Road Crew, Seminole Nation Housing Authority, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Creek Nation Tribal Office, Apollo Gonzales & Family, Mary McCormick, Beverly Snow, Edna Easterwood, Amelia Harjo, Rev. Frank Moppin & Family, Rev. Arthur Carpitcher & Family, Glen Gibbs, Allen Foster, OLG Propane, Dynamic Lawns, Chickasaw Medical Center.

If we left your name off, please forgive us. Your rewards will be noted in Heaven where it really counts. Once again, God bless you and thank you.

- Family of Robert T. Wood



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EMOPONAYV

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — Hey Estacate, Columbus Day was on the eighth of this month. Did you celebrate anything? Maybe take the day off, unless you worked for the MCN? Kids all over the country are singing, “... Columbus sailed the ocean blue, in fourteen hundred ninety-two...” Yeah, yeah. Thanks for ‘discovering’ us, Chris.

Let’s see now, ol’ Christopher talked the queen into hocking her jewels to finance a voyage to somewhere else, got lost, called us ‘Indians,’ turned the natives into slaves and made an ATM out of our continent. About right?

Got news for ya,’ Chris. Some say, the Chinese, the Vikings and the Irish had already dropped by before you. If the Vikings had stuck around, we would have been known as “Skraelings.” Wouldn’t that be fun? Cleveland Skraelings? Skraeling giver? Bureau of Skraeling Affairs? Skraeling tacos? I’m 1/32 Skraeling?

You ever wonder what could have developed here if those Europeans had not made their journeys? There were already great civilizations, cultures and cities here.

I tend to remember the last scenes from the movie “Apocalypto”, where Mayan enemies chase the hero onto the beach and he is halted in his tracks. Just when you think things couldn’t get any worse, he looks up and sees Spanish ships with soldiers and priests heading for shore. Geez.

The United Nations Indigenous committee is working to reject the “Policy of Discovery Doctrine.” Kinda late for that isn’t it?

Famous actor Chaske Spencer was here. The “Twilight” movie werewolf guy spoke at our Mvskoke Film Festival. Great guy, easy to talk to. Speaking of famous actors, Johnny Depp quietly dropped in to the Comanche Nation festival parade. He rode in a convertible next to my ol’ friend, LaDonna Harris. Looking forward to seeing how his movie, “The Lone Ranger”, turns out.

This year’s observance of the Council Oak Ceremony is coming up Oct. 20. The ceremony takes place at 2 p.m., at 1750 S. Cheyenne Ave., in Tulsa.

After that there will be stickball, dinner and a stompdance at the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks, starting at 3:30 p.m. There’ll be room for vendors.

Oh yeah, Native-Made Art Festival Oct. 27, in Jenks. Get ahold of the Tourism and Rec folks for more information on that one.

Finally, some wisdom from Will Rogers: Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.



Nonpoint Source Pollution: Hitchin’ a Ride Through the Watershed

Yvette Wiley
MCN Environmental Services

OKMULGEE — Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS), also called ‘runoff’ pollution. Is it something we can touch, taste, or smell? Or maybe, it’s more like a hanhkv that’s invisible and just waiting for the right moment to pop out. It can be all of those things. Well, except for the hanhkv. It’s definitely not a Hanhkv, but NPS has the potential to be a real spook.

NPS is a way to describe pollutants that begin from many points and places. NPS is a traveler. It’s the vagabond pollutant that’s always on the go. It hitches a ride on anything that will carry it and goes with the flow, up, down, over and out.

It can be carried in different ways, like through the air where it rides on tiny little particles. Eventually, these particles fall back to Ekvnv (Earth) and deposit on the land or in a water source. Scientists and professionals call this phenomenon atmospheric deposition. Besides traveling on particles in the air, NPS can be carried in snow or raindrops where it travels downhill to waterbodies.

For this article, we’ll concentrate on NPS that travels in the snow and rain, because it then navigates our streams, rivers and lakes.

Nasty, oozing, toxic chemicals are what most people envision when they hear the word pollution. Chemicals can be pollutants, but they aren’t always considered pollutants when properly managed. A pollutant can be many things. If there’s too much of

something or if it’s in the wrong place, it is sometimes designated as a pollutant.

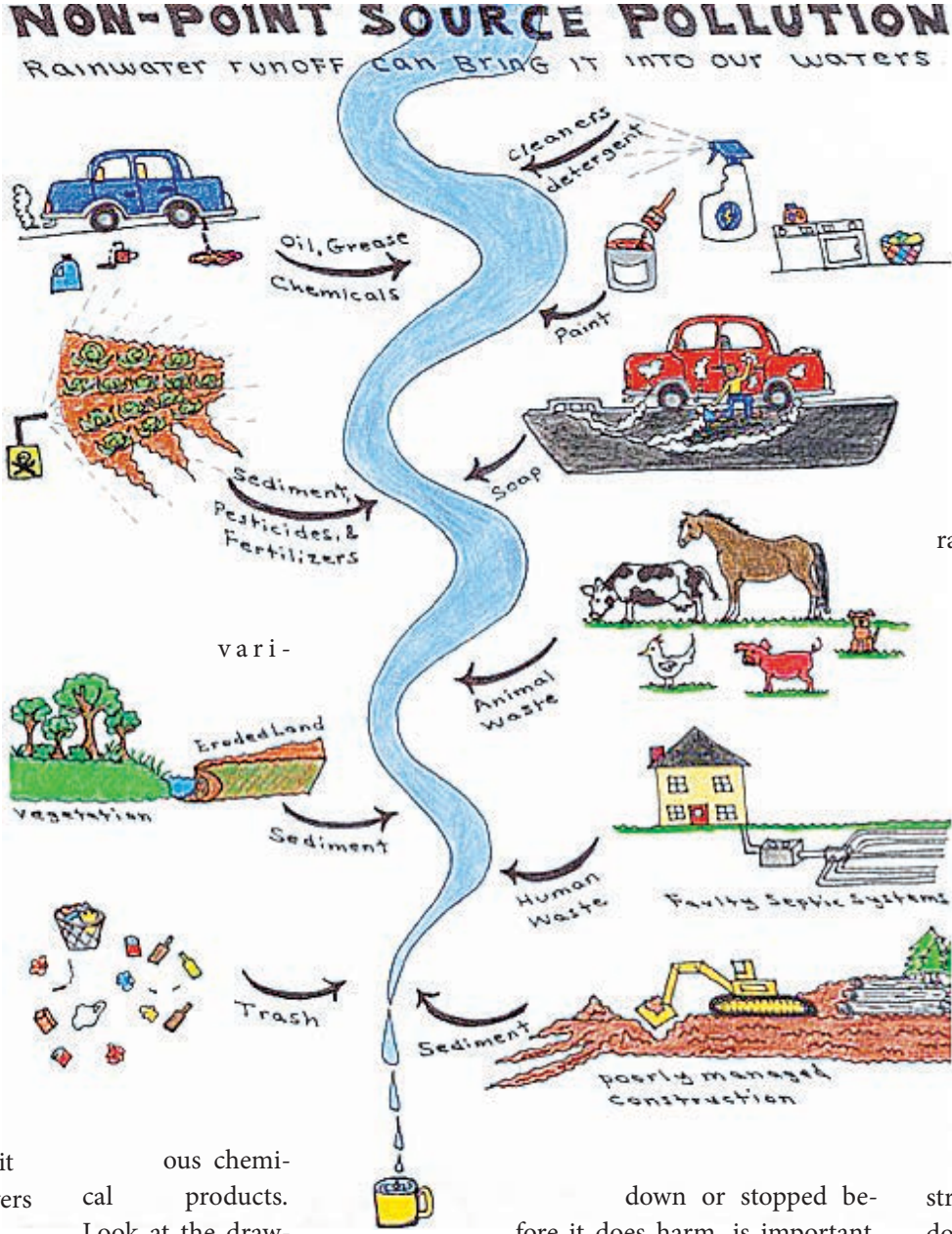
The drawing in Figure 1 shows examples of types of NPS pollutants like sediment, animal and human wastes, oil and grease, and

snowfall keep our cars from sliding into one another. Once the snow melts, the sand and salt becomes a NPS pollutant. NPS is that vagabond cousin, remember? It’s a traveler, so knowing the route it will take, so it can be slowed

flowing waterbody, like a stream, then it flows down the channel (no boat necessary) until that little stream flows into a bigger stream. And on it travels, to bigger rivers, and eventually on to the ocean.

Surfaces can affect the rate of speed that NPS travels. The water that NPS has attached itself to flows much faster over surfaces like parking lots, rooftops, and roads, because those surfaces (impervious surfaces) prevent water from filtering into the ground. Additionally, they are smoother than an unpaved surface, and things flow faster over smoother surfaces. Essentially, in a city with lots of impervious surfaces NPS will travel more like a speedboat racer. In rural areas with more woods than rooftops, NPS travels slower, like a kayaker. It also has a chance to seep into the soil until the ground is saturated, before ‘running off’ down the hill to the stream.

Weather conditions can affect whether NPS stays on the go, or settles on the streambed. For instance, in drought conditions the water velocity in the stream channel slows. In the slower moving water there isn’t enough kinetic energy to carry NPS downstream. The only place it can go is down through the water column to settle on the streambed. It will stay there until something comes along to stir up the streambed (fish, feet of noodlers, or a heavy rain that increases the velocity of the stream) then NPS is, once again, on the move.



ATTN: -MUSCOGEE VETERANS- MOTORCYCLE RIDERS

Situation: Yearly Veterans motorcycle ride is approaching.

Mission: Veteran motorcyclists will dine and watch movie at Admiral Twin Drive-In.

Execution: Veteran motorcyclists and 1 guest riding with veteran will:

1. Assemble at MCN Veterans building (VASO) at 1500 on Friday, 12 Oct 12
2. Group will depart VASO at 1505 and proceed to the restaurant - 5 & Diner, Highway 51 and Memorial, Tulsa, OK.
3. At 1730 group will depart restaurant and proceed to the Admiral Twin Drive-In, off Highway 244, Tulsa, OK.
4. Between 2100 and 2300 group will depart Drive-In theater and travel back to VASO.

Administrative: VASO will pay for dinner and admission to movie for veteran and 1 guest.

1. Veteran must be Muscogee (Creek) citizen
2. Veteran allowed 1 guest and guest must be on motorcycle with veteran.
3. Refreshments at Drive-In theater will be responsibility of veteran.
4. VASO’s company car will be trace vehicle.
5. Veterans must bring their vest; VASO will transport vests in car.
6. Vest must be worn at restaurant and Drive-In theater.

Communication: Muscogee Veterans please call Ken Davis or Shawn Taryole by 1700, 11 Oct 12 to register for the event at phone numbers: (918) 732-7739 or (918) 732-7745.

HALLOWEEN POLLUTION

OCTOBER 28TH



Proud to support the fight
against breast cancer

\$10 Match Play
2:00PM - 8:00PM

Hot Seat Drawings

5 - \$100 Free Play Hot Seat Drawings every
1/2 hour from 2:00PM - 7:30PM.

Halloween Costume Contest

8:00PM

1st - \$1,000
2nd - \$750 3rd - \$500
4th - \$250 5th - \$100

GHOSTS GONE WILD



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Ailing Native American activist seeks financial help

Native American activists seeks donations to save home from foreclosure

Sterling Cospers
MNN Reporter

SAN DIEGO — Native American activist Lehman Brightman, founder of the United Native Americans (UNA) and his son, Quanah Parker Brightman, are facing foreclosure on their family home and seeking financial help. Lehman is currently in the care of rehabilitation center in California after suffering a serious stroke.

“He is not able to walk,” said Quanah.

According to Quanah, his father will not be allowed to leave the rehabilitation center until the financial debt on their home is settled.

“He should be allowed to live his final days among his family at his home,” Quanah said.

A website has been set up to accept donations to help the family save their home which is scheduled to be auctioned off Nov. 9 if the family is unable to make their payments.

“We’ve still got a long way to



Photo provided/Lehman Brightman
Native American activist Lehman Brightman (center) with his son Quanah Parker Brightman (right).

go,” Quanah said.

The UNA was founded by Lehman in the ’60s and was based out of the San Francisco Bay Area.

“We have always been about peace. We believe in activism through pro-indigenous education,” Quanah said.

Lehman, who is both Muscogee (Creek) and Sioux, was born in Eufaula and had many athletic accomplishments while attending Oklahoma State University before becoming politically active.

“My father is a very strong willed man; he has been very humble about his accomplishments,” Quanah said.

Quanah says he is working hard to care for Lehman while running the UNA and seeking help for the

family’s home.

“The love I have for my father is carried out through actions, not just words. As indigenous people we are taught at a very early age to respect our elders and that’s what I’ve chosen to do,” Quanah said.

Quanah and his father received positive news when their bank gave them an extension to settle their back mortgage payments.

However, according to Quanah, his family is still far from their goal to keep their home from auction next month.

“We still have a long way to go,” he said.

To make a donation to the Brightmans visit: <http://www.go-fundme.com/ForMrBrightman>

Muscogee (Creek) family man becomes licensed attorney

Sterling Cospers
MNN Reporter

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Donald Slaughter recently passed the Oklahoma Bar Examination as part of the May 2012 Tulsa University (TU) graduating class, which collectively scored the highest on the exam in the state of Oklahoma.

Slaughter was married with one child while completing law school and his second child was born the week before he took the bar examination.

“I didn’t get to study the entire final week before the test,” he said.

This was one of many trials he overcame on his way to becoming a licensed attorney. Earlier in his education, Slaughter graduated from the former Hill Haven Christian Academy only to find out after graduating that the school was not accredited.

“I’d never taken an SAT or ACT,” he said.

After graduating from Hill Haven, Slaughter entered into the workforce for a short period until his mother convinced him to continue his education.

Slaughter was able to gain college admission despite his unaccredited diploma with good scores on several college placement tests, obtaining his associate’s degree at Tulsa Community College and his bachelor’s in political science at Okla-

homa State University.

He spoke very highly of his education at TU.

“It was a really enjoyable experience,” Slaughter said.

While in school, Slaughter interned at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court under Administrator of Special Projects Chris Azbell.

Azbell commented on Slaughter’s tenacity.

“He got married and had a kid early in life and it really shows persistence and dedication that he made it through law school while having a family,” Azbell said.

Slaughter is currently providing assistance on court cases for a friend who mentored him in law school and may be hired as in house legal counsel for his brother who is currently forming a new business.

“Everything is still in the development stages though,” Slaughter said.

In the future, Slaughter hopes to pursue a career in politics.

“I still need to build my career before I think about that,” he said.

Presently, however, Slaughter is still adjusting to postgraduate life.

“I’m trying to get used to the idea of being out of college and being an attorney, it is still surreal to me,” he said.



Photo provided/Donald Slaughter
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Donald Slaughter recently passed the Oklahoma Bar Examination as part of the May 2012 Tulsa University graduating class.



CREEK NATION

Casino

DUCK CREEK

WHITE BUFFALO PLAYERS CLUB

10085 FERGUSON RD. • BEGGS, OK
(918)267-3449 | OPEN 24 HOURS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT


IN THE MATTER OF:)
J.B., DOB: 04-22-06)
Alleged Deprived Children.)

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Michael Galloway, Natural Father of J.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 2ND day of November at 9:30 A.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.



JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: DV-2010-08
DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 SEP 7 AM 10
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DISTRICT COURT
COURT CLERK

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:)
BRANDON BOUDREAUX,)
Petitioner,)
vs.)
SANDRA BOUDREAUX,)
Respondent.)

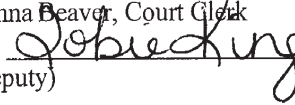
SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Sandra Boudreaux

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2010-70, styled In re the Marriage of Brandon Boudreaux, Petitioner and Sandra Boudreaux, Respondent, *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage*. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a decree of dissolution of marriage from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 2nd day of November, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of Sept, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: 
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 SEP 5 PM
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DISTRICT COURT
COURT CLERK
Case No. DV-2012-70

BE THE VOICE

Presented by: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is hosting domestic violence awareness events throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The events will feature domestic violence survivor panels, and will discuss ways that every community member can BE THE VOICE in an effort to bring about awareness and to ensure the safety of our women, children and our communities.

October 23, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Eufaula Indian Community
800 Birkes Road, Eufaula, OK

There will be door prizes and a limited number of t-shirts! Donations to the local domestic violence shelter are welcome and appreciated but not required. For more information contact Tania Bardin at (918) 732-7869.

This project was supported by Grants No. 2010-WR-AX0004 and 2011-TW-AX-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this announcement are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- Research indicates that American Indian women experience domestic violence at a higher rate than any other ethnic group.
- During a physical assault, American Indian/Alaska Native women were more likely to be injured than women of all other groups and more of these injuries needed medical care.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior used to assert and maintain power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Domestic violence can include:

Emotional/Verbal Abuse	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
Name calling	Hitting/pushing/kicking	Forced intercourse/rape
Threats	Choking	Unwanted sexual activity
	Intimidation	*Any act that causes physical harm

The Family Violence Prevention Program provides a number of supportive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence including: court/legal advocacy, assistance in filing protective orders or in locating emergency shelter, safety planning, referrals and other services depending on each individual’s needs.

If you are in an abusive relationship, please contact Family Violence Prevention at 918-732-7869 to speak with an Advocate.

Be the Voice. Speak out against domestic violence...Our Nation depends on it!